

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11479

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EEC, GW
SUBJECT: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PREPARATION FOR EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

BRUNO FRIEDRICH, THE SPD DEPUTY CHARGED WITH THE
TASK OF ORGANIZING THE GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FOR THE
EUROPEAN ELECTION AND WITH CONTACTING OTHER LIKE-MINDED
PARTIES, HAS TOLD US THE FOLLOWING ABOUT PROGRESS ON HIS
SIDE'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION:

-- AT A MEETING IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEKEND, THE ELEVEN
SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTIES AGREED ON A COMMON
PLATFORM. FRIEDRICH, WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING, APPEARED
VERY PROUD OF THE PLATFORM. HE SAID IT REPRESENTED THE
VIEWS OF THE MODERATE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, CORRESPONDING
ROUGHLY TO THE MIDDLE POSITION OF THE SPD.

-- THE PARTIES ALSO AGREED ON A COMMON EMBLEM, WHICH CON-
SISTS OF A SQUARE BUTTON IN WHICH A SYMBOLIC WHITE ARROW
POINTS TO THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER ON A RED FIELD.
FRIEDRICH SAID THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW WAS INTENDED
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TO SHOW THE DESIRE OF THE PARTIES FOR PROGRESS AND WAS
NOT TO BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF POLITICAL DIRECTION.

-- THERE WILL BE A CONVENTION OF THE ELEVEN PARTIES IN
JANUARY. THAT CONVENTION, TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS, WILL
PREPARE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS AND PLANS IN MORE DETAIL.
IN PASSING, FRIEDRICH NOTED THAT THERE WERE ELEVEN PAR-

TIES BECAUSE ITALY HAD TWO AND BECAUSE NORTHERN IRELAND
HAD A SEPARATE PARTY.

-- EVEN THOUGH THE SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTIES APPEAR READY TO CONDUCT A COMMON CAMPAIGN AND
AN ENERGETIC ONE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THEY CAN COM-
MAND A MAJORITY OF THE ASSEMBLY. THAT MAJORITY, AND
WITH IT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY, WILL PROBABLY
GO TO THE CONSERVATIVES.
STOESSEL

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